



Iona School for Ministry

Title of Class: Sermon Essentials

Year, Track(s): Juniors

Class Date: 12/5/2020

Instructor's Name: The Rev'd Dr. Lisa Cressman

Class Description

Through instruction and workshopping sessions, students will learn and apply six essential components of sermons.

Class Objectives

After taking this class, students will:

- Define six essential components of sermons
- Apply the components to create an outline for a sermon with one clear message of Good News.

Class Schedule

7: 00 Welcome and prayer

7:10 Exercise #1. See instructions below. Please come prepared to do this exercise.

7:30 The six sermon components

7:50 Break

8:00 Exercise #2: Apply the six components to craft a sermon outline on Luke 1:26-38 (Advent 4B).

8:55 Closing

Please come to class prepared with the following.

Exercise #1. Your job is to persuade the others in your breakout room to try your favorite restaurant. You will each have two minutes to persuade the others. The restaurant has to be a real place that you have eaten at, however it's not necessary that this restaurant still be in business, nor does it matter where in the world this restaurant is. Here are the criteria to use in any order you choose.

1. What's the name of this restaurant and where is it?
2. Why do you love this restaurant so much?
3. Why do you think the others would love this restaurant?
4. What obstacles do the others have to overcome to go? For example (and beyond the current context of the pandemic and need for social distancing), the restaurant might be expensive, it might be in an out-of-the-way location, it might have weird hours—or it might have closed ten years ago!

5. If they do overcome the obstacles, though, how might the experience be life-changing?
6. Include details in your description of the restaurant that make it special. Tell your partners, for example, what you love about your favorite menu item, the ambiance, or the wait staff.
7. Give a one sentence summary about why they should “Go, go, go!” :)

At the beginning of this exercise each of you will be asked to share your favorite kind of restaurant food, for example, steaks, burgers, or vegetarian (which can, but doesn't have to be, the same food offered at your favorite restaurant). The order of speakers will be alphabetical based on the type of food named. In the examples above, the person who names burgers would go first, steaks second, and vegetarian third.

When you're talking about your restaurant you get “brownie points” (See what I did there?!) if you address the others' preferences when persuading them to try your restaurant. For example, if your favorite restaurant is known for its steaks, and one person in your group loves burgers and another is vegetarian, what do you need to tell them so they'll still want to give your restaurant a try?

Exercise #2. You will craft an outline for a homily based on Luke 1:26-38. Please come having read this text several times, preferably from several English translations.

Please read one or both of the following commentary articles from WorkingPreacher.org.

- <https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revise-common-lectionary/fourth-sunday-of-advent-2/commentary-on-luke-126-38-5>
- <https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revise-common-lectionary/fourth-sunday-of-advent-2/commentary-on-luke-126-38>

On the basis of what you read in the text and article(s), be able to answer: “I believe God _____.” In no more than eight words, fill in the blank by describing an aspect of God's character or something God does. For example, “I believe God's creativity is as compassionate as it is clever!” Or, “I believe God notices the wallflowers.”

Also, you will be asked to write as you craft an outline. I recommend you have at least six, 6 x 4 notecards if you prefer to handwrite, or the digital equivalent so you can see all six notes simultaneously and move them on your screen.

Handouts will be made available during the class to print later.

For further reading. Cressman, Lisa: Backstory Preaching: Integrating Life, Spirituality, and Craft (The Liturgical Press, 2018). Available on Amazon, bookshop.org, and the Liturgical Press.